

Criminal Justice Administrative Records (CJARS)

Discussant Comments

John Sandoval

National Advisory Committee

U.S. Census Bureau

2022 Spring Virtual Meeting

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“Public-Public” partnership funded largely by grants



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GRANT

Regents of the University of Michigan

Grant Information

PURPOSE	To launch an exploratory pilot of the Criminal Justice Administrative Records System.
GRANTEE	REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
LOCATION	
GRANT AMOUNT	\$922,019
TERM	2016 - 2018
FUNDING SOURCE	LJAF
RELATED TO OUR WORK IN...	> CRIMINAL JUSTICE



National Science Foundation



Advantages / Positives / Benefits

- Partnership model between Census Bureau and external research institutions represents a “Novel” approach that leverages expertise, resources and funding
- Creation of a heretofore inexistent dataset, infrastructure and methodology that fills a void
- Enables production of actionable statistics never before possible
- Potential resource benefit for Census Bureau operations and increasing ROI as dataset matures
- Multi stakeholder model and “customer pull” suggest increasing relevance and real-world applicability

Example of “Transformational Measurement”

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics



March 2021, NCJ 252645

Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016

Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children

Laura M. Maruschak, *BJS Statistician*

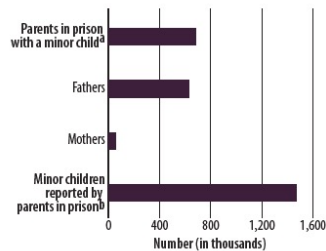
Jennifer Bronson, Ph.D., and Mariel Alper, Ph.D., *former BJS Statisticians*

An estimated 684,500 state and federal prisoners were parents of at least one minor child in 2016 (figure 1, table 1). About 626,800 (47%) males and 57,700 (58%) females in state or federal prison were parents with minor children. Prisoners reported having an estimated 1,473,700 minor children.

Statistics in this report are based on self-reported data collected through face-to-face interviews with a national sample of state and federal prisoners age 18 or older in the 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI). (See *Methodology*.) The SPI provides national statistics on prisoner characteristics across a variety of topics, including parental status.

In this report, “parents” refers to those prisoners who had either biological or adopted children. Because the SPI did not ask about stepchildren, estimates of parents do not include prisoners who only had stepchildren and estimates of children do not include stepchildren.

FIGURE 1
Estimated number of all parents in state or federal prison with a minor child and number of minor children, 2016



Note: See table 1 for counts, percentages, and standard errors.

^aIncludes prisoners who reported having a biological or adopted child age 17 or younger at the time of the interview.

^bIncludes biological or adopted children age 17 or younger at the time of the interview.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016.

Highlights

- Nearly half of state prisoners (47%) and more than half of federal prisoners (57%) reported having at least one minor child.
- In state prison, about 58% of females were parents with minor children, compared to 46% of males.
- Nearly 3 in 5 females (58%) and males (57%) in federal prison were parents with minor children.
- Nearly 1.5 million persons age 17 or younger had a parent who was in state or federal prison in 2016.
- Parents in state or federal prison had an average of two minor children each.
- An estimated 19% of minor children with a parent in state prison and 13% with a parent in federal prison were age 4 or younger.

Bureau of Justice Statistics • Statistical Tables



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Revised 3/30/10



Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

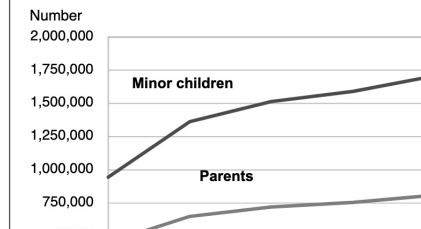
August 2008, NCJ 222984

Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children

Lauren E. Glaze
and Laura M. Maruschak
BJS Statisticians

An estimated 809,800 prisoners of the 1,518,535 held in the nation's prisons at midyear 2007 were parents of minor children, or children under age 18. Parents held in the nation's prisons—52% of state inmates and 63% of federal inmates—reported having an estimated 1,706,600 minor children, accounting for 2.3% of the U.S. resident population under age 18. Unless otherwise specified in this report, the word *parent* refers to state and federal prisoners who reported having minor children. The word *children* refers to youth under age 18.

Estimated number of parents in state and federal prisons and their minor children



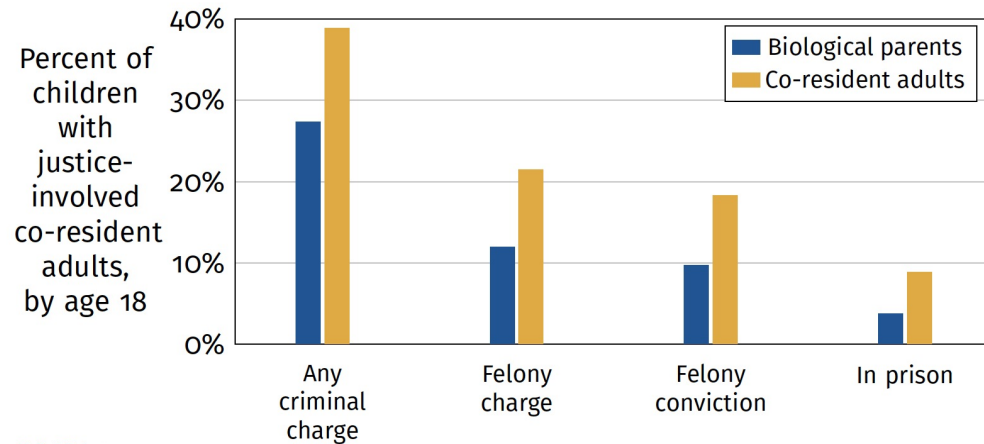
2021 - Prisoners reported having an estimated 1,473,700 minor children.

2010 - 2.3% of the U.S. resident populations under age 18...

2000 - 2.1% of the U.S. resident populations under age 18...

Example of “Transformational Measurement” (cont)

Children and justice-involved co-resident adults

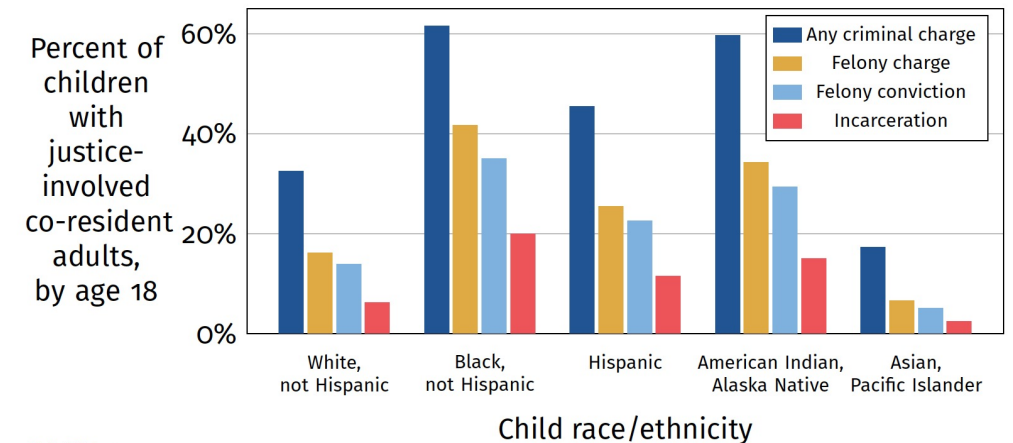


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Source: Calculations from CJARS data linked to family and residential history crosswalks for the following states: AZ, FL, MD, MI, NE, NJ, NC, ND, OR, PA, TX, WA, and WI. Note: Results were approved for release by the Census Bureau Disclosure Review Board, authorization number CBDRB-FY22-ERD002-001.

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Black, Hispanic, AIAN children at higher risk



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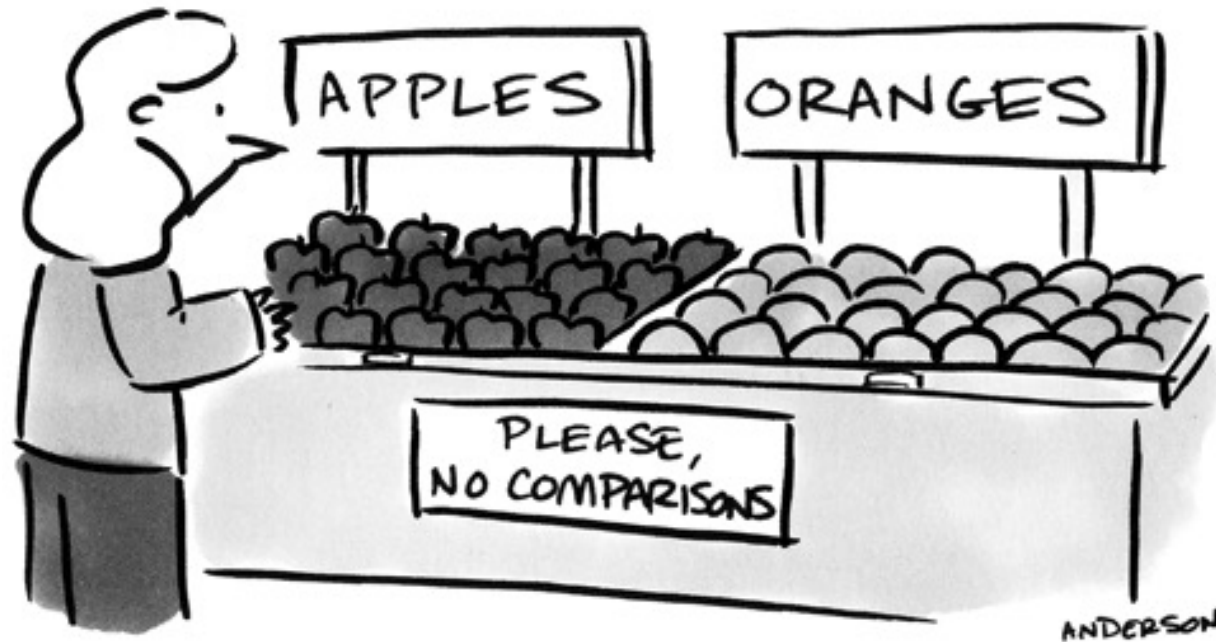
Source: Calculations from CJARS data linked to family and residential history crosswalks and Title 13 race and ethnicity data for the following states: AZ, FL, MD, MI, NE, NJ, NC, ND, OR, PA, TX, WA, and WI. Note: Results were approved for release by the Census Bureau Disclosure Review Board, authorization number CBDRB-FY22-ERD002-001.

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Example of “Transformational Measurement” (cont)

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Disadvantages / Negatives / Risks

- Reliance on grant funding leads to periodic “tin-cupping” and uncertainty regarding long term sustainability
- Majority of work and ownership by external non-Census Bureau partner poses several risks
- Higher but necessary security threshold, bureaucracy and long timelines associated with project may be unattractive to potential CJARS employees, researchers and stakeholders
- Subject matter is intrinsically sensitive and privacy concerns and restrictions are potential roadblocks to further development of data infrastructure and consequently usable statistics
- Relationship building and data agreements with myriad of jurisdictional entities is a challenge and not the “best use” of CB or UM staff and researchers

Questions / Considerations / Areas to Explore

- Is there a potential use case for CJARS to supplement or even substitute existing Census Bureau operations? For example, Group Quarter enumeration in the 2030 Decennial?
- Given the sensitive and private nature of the subject matter, what safeguards are in place to ensure that Census Bureau statistics or 3rd party researchers using CJARS release objective and neutral reports rather than politicized statistics that stigmatize an already marginalized population?
- What is the potential for CJARS to be used by other Federal agencies and/or be linked with other Federal agency records?
- What are the current resource constraints and what additional resources would be required to expand coverage and ensure long term viability of this data product?

Questions / Considerations / Areas to Explore II

- Are sufficient steps being taken to codify and record “harmonization” methodology with an eye towards preserving institutional knowledge?
- How would you categorize the major barriers to further data acquisition? Legwork? Relationship building? Mistrust of Census Bureau or project? State privacy laws?
- To what extent does the absence of Juvenile records or other currently “Out of Scope” records handicap the full potential of CJARS?
- Is there a use case for CJARS to contribute or provide additional context to the ongoing discussion of prison gerrymandering?

M | GO BLUE!